

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213175

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QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 07086

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GE, US

SUBJECT: INITIAL CALL ON FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

- GAUS: BRIEFING ON US-GDR BILATERAL RELATIONS

REF: A. BERLIN 6855 (NOTAL), B. BERLIN 6885 (NOTAL),

- C. BERLIN 6948 (NOTAL), D. BERLIN 7109 (NOTAL).

SUMMARY: I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY AUGUST 31 TO BRIEF FRG  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE GAUS ON MY INITIAL TALKS WITH  
HONECKER AND OTHER GDR LEADERS. I MENTIONED THEIR COMMENTS  
ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS, THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACHED TO  
RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND THEIR DESIRE TO  
FURTHER DEVELOPE THESE RELATIONS. I ALSO BRIEFED GAUS ON  
OUTSTANDING ISSUES IN US-GDR RELATIONS, INCLUDING THE  
CONSULAR CONVENTION AND THE NATIONALITY CLAUSE PROBLEM.

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GAUS SAW THE NATIONALITY ISSUE AS A FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM;  
ACCORDINGLY, IT WOULD BE DECIDED IN MOSCOW. GAUS EXPRESSED  
BONN'S VIEW THAT THE EXPANSION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN WESTERN  
COUNTRIES AND THE GDR COULD ONLY BE HELPFUL TO THE FRG  
OBJECTIVES. END SUMMARY.

1. I CALLED ON FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE GAUS ON

AUGUST 31 AND BRIEFED HIM IN DETAIL ON MY MEETING WITH SED SECRETARY GENERAL HONECKER AND OTHER GDR LEADERS, DRAWING FREELY ON REFTELS. I TOLD GAUS THAT HONECKER, FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER, AND FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER SOELLE AND OTHERS HAD BEEN BUSINESSLIKE, CANDID, AND SINCERE IN EXPRESSING THEIR DESIRE FOR CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES; THEY HAD EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO THESE RELATIONS WHICH THEY RECOGNIZED HAD BROADER IMPLICATIONS FOR EAST-WEST RELATIONS. GDR LEADERS HAD TOLD ME THEY WANTED NO CONFLICT OR CONFRONTATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. I SAID GDR LEADERS HAD EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR GOOD US-SOVIET RELATIONS. I INFORMED GAUS THAT HONECKER, IN PARTICULAR, HAD PLACED GREAT STRESS ON DETENTE. HE WANTED A CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION. I TOLD GAUS THAT HONECKER SAW GOOD US-SOVIET RELATIONS AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND THE GDR. HONECKER HAD EMPHASIZED TO ME THAT GOOD US-GDR RELATIONS COULD NOT FLOURISH UNLESS AN ATMOSPHERE OF DETENTE PREVAILED. GDR LEADERS HAD EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO WORK FOR DETENTE. I ALSO INFORMED GAUS THAT I HAD GONE INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL WITH HONECKER ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS, DRAWING ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S JULY 21 SPEECH AND OUR REACTION TO BREZHNEV'S POSITIVE COMMENTS REGARDING THE SPEECH.

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2. I ALSO BRIEFED GAUS ON OUR STEP BY STEP DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. I INFORMED HIM ABOUT SEVERAL KEY BILATERAL ISSUES OF CONCERN TO US, INCLUDING HUMANITARIAN CASES, PROPERTY CLAIMS, JEWISH CLAIMS, THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, DUAL ACCREDITATION OF JOURNALISTS AND DIRECT DISTRIBUTION OF HIGH-LEVEL US POLICY STATEMENTS TO GDR END-USERS. I INFORMED GAUS ABOUT MY DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTER FOR TRADE SOELLE AND OUR TRADE PROMOTION PLANS AND OBJECTIVES IN THE GDR.

3. I WENT INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL WITH GAUS ON MY DISCUSSIONS WITH GDR LEADERS ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. I TOLD GAUS I HAD INFORMED GDR OFFICIALS THAT THE CONCLUSION OF A CONSULAR CONVENTION WAS A KEY FACTOR IN OUR EFFORTS TO REGULARIZE RELATIONS. CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CONSULAR PROTECTION. I HAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE THEREFORE THAT GDR OFFICIALS WOULD WORK TO PUT THIS ISSUE BEHIND US SO THAT WE COULD MOVE FORWARD MORE EASILY IN DEVELOPING OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS. I MENTIONED TO GAUS THAT MANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSULAR CONVENTION HAD ALREADY BEEN NEGOTIATED. THE CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN

STALLED PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF THE GDR DESIRE FOR INCLUSION OF A DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY. I TOLD GAUS THAT I HAD PROPOSED A COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO THE GDR OFFICIALS WHICH MIGHT BE SALEABLE IN WASHINGTON. THIS WOULD INVOLVED (A) SIGNING OF A CONSULAR CONVENTION WITHOUT A DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY AND (B) A PUBLIC STATEMENT AT THE TIME OF THE SIGNING SETTING FORTH THE POSITION OF THE TWO SIDES ON THE ISSUE OF NATIONALITY. I INFORMED GAUS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER HAD PROMISED TO THINK IT OVER. SUBSEQUENTLY, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT HAD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT HE FOUND THIS PROPOSAL NOT YET ACCEPTABLE. GAUS WAS INFORMED ABOUT GDR AGREEMENT THAT DCM POLANSKY AND FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULAR CHIEF KLOBE WOULD UNDERTAKE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH A VIEW TO SEEKING A COMPROMISE POSITION ON CONFIDENTIAL

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THE NATIONALITY QUESTION.

4. GAUS REPLIED THAT THE GDR VERY MUCH WANTED A CONSULAR CONVENTION WITH THE UNITED STATES. IT WOULD HELP DEMONSTRATE GDR SOVEREIGNTY AND LEGITIMACY. IN GAUS'S VIEW THE GDR WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, ABOUT PRECEDENTS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE GDR IS NOT A FREE AGENT ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES OF THIS KIND, ACCORDING TO GAUS. HE SAID THE NATIONALITY QUESTION IS A FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE; THEREFORE IT WOULD BE DECIDED IN MOSCOW. GAUS ADDED THAT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORMAL BILATERAL PROGRAMS WITH THE WESTERN COUNTRIES, THE GDR IN HIS VIEW WAS QUITE FREE OF MOSCOW.

5. I ASKED GAUS HOW BONN SAW THE DEVELOPMENT OF GDR RELATIONS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE UNITED STATES. GAUS SAID THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND WESTERN COUNTRIES CAN ONLY BE HELPFUL TO FRG OBJECTIVES. THIS WAS HIS VIEW. IT WAS THE VIEW OF HIS GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT SOME IN THE FRG DID NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THIS POSITION. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THIS WAS "STRICTLY INCORRECT." EXPANDING BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN WESTERN COUNTRIES AND THE GDR MIGHT HELP MODERATE GDR BEHAVIOR ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. BOLEN. UNQUOTE VANCE.

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